

P-407, 421, 430, 405, 520, 426/CP-93-1027 ORDER REQUIRING TRAFFIC STUDIES

BEFORE THE MINNESOTA PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION

Don Storm
Tom Burton
Marshall Johnson
Cynthia A. Kitlinski
Dee Knaak

Chair
Commissioner
Commissioner
Commissioner
Commissioner

In the Matter of a Petition for Extended Area
Service from the Watertown exchange to the
Minneapolis/St. Paul Metropolitan Calling
Area

ISSUE DATE: March 21, 1994

DOCKET NO. P-407, 421, 430, 405, 520,
426/CP-93-1027

ORDER REQUIRING TRAFFIC STUDIES

PROCEDURAL HISTORY

In 1991, Watertown rejected extended area service (EAS) to the Minneapolis/St. Paul Metropolitan Calling Area (MCA) in polling conducted by the Commission. Accordingly, the Commission issued an Order dismissing the Watertown petition.

On October 12, 1993, Watertown subscribers filed another petition for EAS. The cover letter enclosed with the petition forms indicated that the petition was for EAS to the Minneapolis/St. Paul Metropolitan Calling Area (MCA). The petition forms themselves did not list the MCA as the petitioned area.

On November 3, 1993, the Department filed a letter recommending that the petition be accepted as a petition to the MCA.

On November 9, 1993, GTE Minnesota (GTE or the Company), the local exchange company serving the Watertown exchange, filed a letter indicating that it accepted the petition as requesting EAS to the MCA.

No other parties contested the validity of the petition.

On March 8, 1994, the Commission met to consider this matter.

FINDINGS AND CONCLUSIONS

A. Timeliness of a Second Petition

After a petition seeking EAS for a particular route has been denied, the Commission's rules require a two-year waiting period before another petition requesting EAS for that route can be filed. The Commission finds that in this case the two year waiting period has expired and the filing of a new petition is authorized.

B. Adequacy of the Petition

A possible deficiency in the filing was that although a cover letter accompanying the filing stated that the route sought was Watertown to the MCA, the petition forms bearing the required signatures of the Watertown subscribers did not identify the route requested.

To resolve this ambiguity, the Department placed telephone calls to about 10 percent of the petitioners. The calls verified that the petitioners were indeed seeking EAS to the MCA. In light of this clarification, the Commission will accept the petition as one for EAS to the MCA and not require resubmission of the signature forms.

C. Commission Action

The Commission will proceed to process this petition. The next step is to determine whether there is adequate traffic between the petitioning exchange and the petitioned area to warrant further consideration of this matter.

To obtain the necessary information on this point, the Commission will require GTE Minnesota, the local exchange company serving Watertown, to file six months of traffic data for the Watertown-MCA route. If available, 12 months of this data would be preferable.

ORDER

1. Within 20 days of this Order, GTE Minnesota shall file at least six (preferably 12) months of traffic data between Watertown and the MCA.
2. This Order shall become effective immediately.

BY ORDER OF THE COMMISSION

Burl W. Haar
Executive Secretary

(S E A L)